REU Site: Summer Research Program in Materials Science and Nanotechnology

Charles J. O'Connor and Matthew A. Tarr, DMR-0243977

Overview: A Research Experiences for Undergraduates program was developed and initiated at the University of New Orleans in 2003. This program provides 9-week intensive summer research opportunities for 8 undergraduate students. The participants work side by side with graduate students, post-docs, and faculty members on independent projects in nanoscale science. In addition to lab experience, the participants also learn research concepts, lab safety, and scientific ethics. In 2003, 100% of the participants were from underrepresented groups or were from Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs). In 2004, we hosted 8 undergraduate students from underrepresented groups (7 were African-American; the remaining student was female).

Summer 2004 REU Participants

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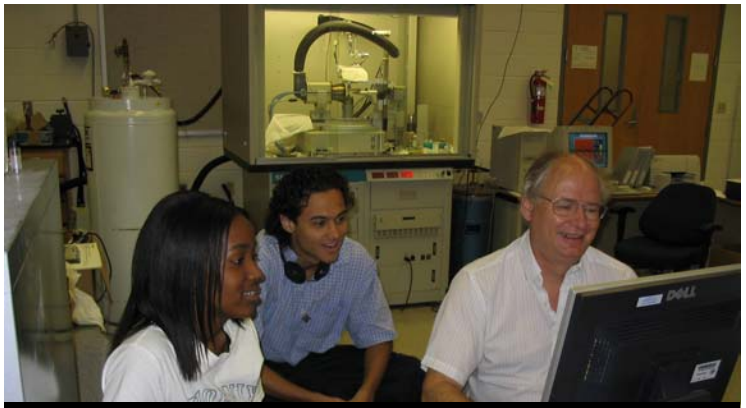
Broader Impacts: This program will have dramatic impacts on the number of individuals from underrepresented groups pursuing careers in nanoscale science and engineering. The participants gain important lab skills, confidence in their ability as scientists, and a broader perspective of how scientific research functions. In addition, the participants learn important technical information that they are unlikely to learn in typical academic settings such as traditional lecture and lab courses. All interns present their work at an end of summer poster session. In addition, several interns will be presenting their work at national scientific meetings in 2004-2005 (Materials Research Society Fall Meeting, Nov. 2004; American Chemical Society Spring National Meeting, March 2005; Nanoscale Process and System Integration Conference, April 2005).



REU intern Dustin Ancalade (center) reviews X-ray data with high school intern Traneil Clark (left) and professor Ed Stevens

REU intern Corey Holmes (right) discusses his poster with graduate student Chanel Fortier